

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, SW
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF: STATE 181837

1. GOSTA GUNNARSSON, 39, IS UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN AND IS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING GOVERNMENT POLICY FOR THE CENTER PARTY WITHIN THE THREE-PARTY NON-SOCIALIST COALITION. GUNNARSSON STUDIED POLITICAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS AT LUND UNIVERSITY, AND IN 1964 BECAME SECRETARY OF THE CENTER PARTY YOUTH LEAGUE. IN THE SAME YEAR HE BEGAN WORKING FOR THE CENTER PARTY RIKSDAG OFFICE, WHERE HE LATER BECAME CHIEF AND WORKED CLOSELY WITH CENTER PARTY LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN AND FOREIGN MINISTER SODER.

2. AS CENTER PARTY COORDINATOR, GUNNARSSON MEETS REGULARLY WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS FROM THE OTHER TWO COALITION PARTIES TO DISCUSS COALITION PROBLEMS AND POLICIES AND TO TRY TO SORT OUT DIFFERENCES. HE ALSO MEETS WEEKLY WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE MINISTRIES IN ORDER TO DISCUSS THEIR VARIOUS PROBLEMS AND TO BE ABLE TO KEEP THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED.

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3. GUNNARSSON HAS BEEN TO THE US AT LEAST TWICE, IN 1963 AND 64, AS A TOURIST AND DELEGATE TO VARIOUS CONFERENCES. HIS FATHER WORKED IN THE US FROM 1926-33 AND HE HAS MANY RELATIVES THERE. HE SPEAKS ADEQUATE ENGLISH, AND IS MARRIED.

4. ON THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT IN SWEDEN, WHICH THE CENTER PARTY STAUNCHLY OPPOSES AND WHICH HAS CAUSED SERIOUS DIVISIONS IN THE COALITION SINCE ITS INCEPTION LAST YEAR, GUNNARSSON HAS EXPRESSED CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE THREE GOVERNMENT PARTIES CAN SOMEHOW BE WORKED OUT. (THE CENTER'S COALITION PARTNERS, THE MODERATE AND LIBERAL PARTIES, FAVOR THE EXPANSION OF SWEDEN'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM.)

5. CHARGE AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD LUNCH WITH GUNNARSSON RECENTLY AND FOUND HIM FORTHRIGHT, SINCERE, AND FRIENDLY TO THE US. HE IS ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO POLITICAL REALITIES, AND SEEMS VERY CLOSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES: IN FACT OUR MFA FRIENDS HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT GUNNARSSON OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION IN THIS GOVERNMENT. GUNNARSSON IS SOMEWHAT RETICENT, AND NEEDS SOME DRAWING OUT, BUT HIS VIEWS ARE CLEAR AND ARE WORTH LISTENING TO. HE HAS EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN COOPERATION WITH THE US IN VARIOUS FIELD. SINCE THE NUCLEAR SUPPLY AREA IS OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR THE SWEDISH COALITION GOVERNMENT, HIS TALKS ON THIS MATTER, FOLLOWING ON TO THE JULY MEETING BETWEEN JOSEPH NYE AND SWEDISH MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIFLAND, WILL BE OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE.

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6. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME FEEDBACK ON CONVERSATIONS WITH GUNNARSSON WHICH MAY DEAL WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OR CENTER PARTY PLANS TO DEAL WITH SWEDEN'S NUCLEAR POLICY PROBLEMS, IF SUCH DISCUSSIONS OCCUR.
PERRY

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